

COMMISSION ON AGING
MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES
Sept. 27, 2018

Members Present	Members Absent
Amoke Alakoye	Karen Maricheau
Syed Yusuf	Ryan Wilson
Mort Faller	Amy Harbison
Isabelle Schoenfeld	Tho Tran
Revathi Vikram	Noelle Heyman
Beverly Rollins	
Deborah Royster	
Jean Dinwiddie	Alumni Members
Mary Petrizzo	John Honig
Phyllis Rand	
Richard Jourdenais	Guests
Alan Kaplan	Jennifer Pellegrini
Miriam Kelty	Sara Lovinger
Stephanie Edelstein	
Mary Petrizzo	Liaisons
Monica Schaeffer	Marsha Pruzan, Age Friendly Senior Fellow
Nanine Meiklejohn	Denise Isreal, Department of Transportation
Hillery Tumba	Stephanie Moore, Housing Opportunities Commission
Marsha Weber	
Barbara Brubeck	Staff
	Odile Brunetto, Acting Chief and AAA Director
	Tremayne Jones, Dept. of Health and Human Services

Call to order–Commission on Aging (COA) Chair, Isabelle Schoenfeld, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. Isabelle welcomed new commissioner, Beverly Rollins to the COA.

Action-June COA meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Budget and Finance Advisor Report–Treasurer Syed Yusuf reported the COA account balance is \$ 5,512.31.

Boards Committees and Commissions (BCC) Transition Plan-Isabelle discussed the COA-developed Transition Plan (provided to Commissioners before the meeting), requested by Uma Ahluwalia, from all BCCs. These completed BCC Transition Plan forms will be provided to the County’s Executive Branch Transition Group.

Isabelle also discussed the “Commission on Aging Briefing Book.” The objective of which is to provide information on COA’s mission, activities, and, importantly, a description of key issues, that affect the quality of life of older adults in the County. COA’s intention is to present the COA Briefing Book (BB) to newly elected officials, re-elected officials, and other appropriate stakeholders in one-on-one meetings. This will provide an opportunity to meet them personally, introduce the key topics, provide additional details, and, to answer any questions. Isabelle expressed great appreciation to Amy Harbison and Marsha Weber for leading the B.B. She said that they and committee co-chairs, and committee members worked on the B.B. during the summer months, in-between vacation time and, sometimes while on vacation. She said it will be a document that will be very useful to the recipients of the B.B. and that COA can be proud of.

Commissioners’ engagement-Isabelle reiterated that all commissioners should be engaged in a committee or committees and circulated a committee sign-up sheet for members to indicate their interests and intent to work with committees.

AAA Director’s updates- Dr. Brunetto addressed the audience on the following updates:

- Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) received 99 rental subsidy vouchers for people 18-64 years of age, who are either leaving a nursing home or at risk of entering a nursing home.
- Anytime Union Taxi, a new co-op business, held their open house on September 29, 2018. The taxis are bright green, and have 6 accessible vehicles for wheelchair users presently. The business will service anyone in the entire County.
- The Senior Cluster meeting was held with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and department directors. Josh Walters is the new liaison for OMB. The meeting was held to discuss Age Friendly Montgomery County.

- Governor Larry Hogan and Maryland Department of Aging Secretary, Rona Kramer met with older adults of the community and guests from four nonprofit organizations on September 25, 2018 at Holiday Park Senior Center to discuss a new grant program called *Community for Life: Helping Maryland Seniors Stay in Their Homes Healthy and Fulfilled*. **Purpose** of the meeting: The Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA) is soliciting grant applications to help Maryland residents age-in-place and remain active and healthy. MDoA aims to enhance the availability of key services and supports that help Maryland older adults cope with the predictable challenges of aging without exhausting their financial resources while decreasing, at the same time, the likelihood of needing long-term care. **The Program:** MDoA seeks financially sustainable service models that are not grant dependent for continuation of services. To this end, MDoA is looking to identify providers who propose to establish programs to deliver a financially self-sustaining, standardized packages of non-medical supportive services to fee-paying voluntary members, and potentially, with support to individuals unable to contribute the full amount, within their service area. Services should be directed to participants living in their homes in a geographically-defined community. Proposal designs should center on specification and justification for a set of services and a specific service demographic that is predominantly 65 and over. MDoA funding is limited and can support only a portion of the cost. The Department is accepting letters of interest on a rolling basis.
- The Sanctuary, at Mount Jezreel Senior Housing Community located at 426 University Boulevard, East Silver Spring held their grand opening on September 8, 2018. The Sanctuary was developed under a partnership between Mission First, Mount Jezreel, CDC, and The Henson Development Company. The Sanctuary is a newly constructed 75-unit apartment building for older adults located in Silver Spring, MD. The development includes 12 units set aside for low income older adult veterans, as well as older adults at a variety of income levels. The site is located on the campus of Mount Jezreel Baptist Church.
- Adult Protective Services (APS) reports an increase of 11.4% in APS cases from FY17-FY18. Thirty four percent of the cases are for financial exploitation. In August 2018 there were 119 cases, this is the highest in the program's history.
- Early Childhood Education: Elements of the Preliminary Recommendations with a Fiscal Impact: Council member Craig Rice's initiative will locate pre-k programs in assisted living facilities. The goal is to expand high quality pre-k to all four-year-olds

and three-year olds from low-income families and assist in identifying children who need support to be ready to succeed in school.

- Six residents in an assisted living facility in Gaithersburg had to be removed and placed at another location due to citations given to this facility by the Office of Health Quality (OHQ). The facility was cited for several violations, one being insufficient trained staff to administer medication to the residents.

Committees' and Special Task Groups Updates

Public Policy-Isabelle discussed the County Council T&E Committee hearing being held today on the Transportation Services Improvement Fund regarding the funds redirection and on the lack of appropriate incentives for taxi operators and drivers. COA sent a letter prior to the hearing and Mort Faller attended the hearing. She mentioned that planning for the Legislative Breakfast is beginning including a date in November or December which would not conflict with other activities of MC delegates.

Aging in Community- Richard discussed the committee's reviewing of issues explored earlier this year. The summer study, last year on Affordable Senior Housing, still has issues of interest to the committee. There are a number of restrictions and zoning issues needing attention by the committee. One continuing issue is the need to increase the number of affordable housing units that could be available. In addition, the committee has been looking at inter-generational and multi-generational living. The committee is gathering information and reviewing these issues.

Health & Wellness-Alan discussed the details of last month's committee meeting. The committee is having a difficult time getting assisted living data. The committee will decide to either focus on the quality of assisted living or the older adult gap.

COA Briefing Book update-Marsha updated the COA on the Briefing Book status. The development team met in July and August to finalize a draft copy of the book. The COA Briefing Book is intended to be an informative document for County and State newly and re-elected officials, department directors, and other interested parties. It will provide information about COA and about significant issues facing older adults in the County. Book development team met in July and August.

Ageism Study update-Hillary updated the COA on the Ageism Study. The study group met to regroup after having the opportunity of hearing the panel in the beginning of the year. The results of the conversation were to develop more of an education piece on

ageism. The work has been divided amongst some of the study group members. The next meeting will take place in October.

Diversity Program updates-Revathi stated language barriers and/or trust were two key challenges identified by all the panelists. Some suggested recommendations were: County create a new position, a Senior Fellow for Older Adults in Diverse Communities, and, create a Coordinating Council of Representatives of Older Adults in Diverse Communities. Many seniors in diverse communities do not have health insurance.

FY20 Budget Priorities Discussion and Decisions-Stephanie and Amoke led the meeting attendees in an exercise to identify COA budget priorities:

Health Social Services

1. Senior Center Plus: Early Stage Memory Loss
2. Respite Care Rates and Services
3. Friday transportation to recreation senior center and Mini Trips
4. Social Worker position for Public Guardianship Program
5. Coordinator of Outreach and Support to Older Adults in Diverse Communities

Affordable Housing

1. Housing Initiative Fund Increases
2. Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDU) program expansion
3. Affordable Housing User Friendly Database and Streamlined Application Process
4. Home Sharing for Older Adults Pilot Program

Meeting adjourned at noon

Respectfully submitted by Amoke Alakoye